

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee,

Hello my name is Taylor Bradley, I am currently enrolled in 20 Peaks Residential Program. I have also completed two summer courses at Galena Ridge.

While I was at home, I was an active alcoholic and drug addict. I was also a part of a white supremacist gang. I was using drugs day in and day out, I couldn't go a day without using some sort of drug to push away how I feel about myself.

When I came to this program, I was in search of a way out. I had feelings coming up that I was trying to run away from. These feelings were coming because I had people around me not fearing to challenge me.

Now I am going to Thompson Falls ^{public} High School, and have a 3.5 GPA I went from less than a 1.0 to a 3.5. My plans are to attend Montanan State University and obtain a degree in fish and game.

When I got the news that programs in Montana could possibly be getting serious regulations, I began getting incredibly worried. When you start regulating it doesn't stop, just look at the state of California, before no time all the programs look the same.

I totally agree with people being required to have a license to open a program in Montana.

In section 3, it states that the program shall submit background checks for the program manager and each worker affiliated with the program who has or will have direct access to program participants. I support this totally. Even though many people that have helped me achieve my sobriety. Such as AA members, senior students of the program, as well as certain mentors have a criminal background.

Section 4

All rules that I have read in this bill were very reasonable. I support the health and sanitation needs. I totally support the five member board because the majority of the board members should be associated with programs in Montana, directly. The people that are not tied with the programs don't understand. The two public representative are not invested in the participants lives like the people that are with them every day. This worries me because having some regulations are great. When you get to many regulations it is very hard to run a program and make it feel loving and caring at the same time. Do some research on programs outside of Montana. Take it from me I've been there.

Section 6 penalty for failure to obtain licence

In section 6 it says that a person who maintains or operates a program in violation of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor, I've had a misdemeanor, it was nothing. You do a couple months on probation and your done. If a person opens a program and refuses to obtain a licence they should be investigated and possibly charged with a sub-substantial fine or a possible felony.

Thank you for listening to my point of view. While the people in this room make there decision just remember the decision you make effects myself and other programs as well.

Thank you for your time
Mr. Chairman and members of the board